

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON NEW SPANISH AMBASSADOR
TO MEXICO, LUIS CORONEL DE PALMA, THE MARQUES DE TEJADA

1. THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT LUIS CORONEL DE PALMA, THE MARQUES DE TEJADA, FORMER GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF SPAIN AND MEMBER OF THE SPANISH CORTES, HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO. MR. CORONEL WILL BE THE FIRST SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO SINCE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WERE SEVERED BETWEEN SPAIN AND MEXICO FOLLOWING THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR.

2. AMBASSADOR CORONEL WAS BORN IN MADRID ON 3 MAY 1925. HE HAS A LAW DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MADRID. A LAWYER AND ECONOMIST BY PROFESSION, HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE SPANISH CORTES. HE WAS CHIEF OF THE TECHNICAL CABINET OF THE FINANCE MINISTRY IN 1957. THAT SAME YEAR HE BECAME SUBDIRECTOR GENERAL OF CREDITS AND INVESTMENTS IN THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF BANKS, MONEY AND INVESTMENTS. IN 1959 CORONEL DE PALMA WAS ELECTED DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE CREDIT INSTITUTE OF THE GENERAL SAVINGS BANKS.

3. CORONEL DE PALMA HAS SERVED AS A DELEGATE TO THE
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INTERNATIONAL SAVINGS INSTITUTE AND WAS A DELEGATE TO THE 1970 AND 1971 ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND AND THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT. HE ATTENDED, BY SPECIAL INVITATION, A MAY 1972 MEETING OF THE GOVERNORS OF THE CENTRAL BANKS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES IN BASEL, SWITZERLAND.

4. A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SEVERAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COMPANIES, HE RECEIVED THE DAG HAMMARSKJOLD PRIZE FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE EXPANSION OF SPANISH INDUSTRY. A MEMBER OF THE CORTES (PARLIAMENT) SINCE 1961, HE HAS SERVED ON THAT BODY'S COMMISSIONS OF FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT.

5. IN JULY 1970, CORONEL WAS APPOINTED BY GENEBL FRANCO AS GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF SPAIN, A POST HE HELD UNTIL JULY, 1976. CORONEL PRIVATELY EXPLAINED AT THAT TIME TO THE DCM THAT HE HAD BEEN DISMISSED BY THE NEWLY APPOINTED PRESIDENT SUAREZ, AT LEAST OSTENSIBLY, DUE TO STATEMENTS HE, CORONEL, HAD MADE DURING A RECENT TRIP TO ISRAEL CONCERNING HIS FEELING THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEN SPAIN AND ISRAEL MIGHT WELL BE ESTABLISHED. THIS STATEMENT CREATED A STRONG REACTION BY VARIOUS ARAB NATIONS AND PRESIDENT SUAREZ EVIDENTLY ASKED FOR CORONEL'S RESIGNATION. A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR MAY HAVE BEEN THE SIMPLY A DESIRE AT THAT TIME TO MAKE A CHANGE IN THE POSITION OF GOVERNORS OF THE BANK OF SPAIN. FOLLOWING HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE BANK OF SPAIN, HE DEVOTED MORE TIME TO HIS POSITION AS PRESIDENT OF THE SPANISH CONFED-ERATION OF SAVINGS BANKS.

6. CORONEL IS UNDERSTOOD TO KNOW PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO FAIRLY WELL, PRESUMABLY FROM THEIR HAVING ATTENDED INTER-NATIONAL FINANCIAL MEETINGS TOGETHER. THIS IS THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IN HIS HAVING BEEN NAMED. IT ALSO PROBABLY IS SIGNFICANT THAT FOREIGN MINISTER

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OREJA WAS APPOINTED TO THE BANK OF SPAIN AS HEAD OF FOREIGN RELATIONS BY CORONEL WHEN HE WAS GOVERNOR. OREJA WAS IN THAT JOB FOR A YEAR AND A HALF.

7. PERSONAL: AMBASSADOR CORONEL IS A WELL-GROOMED, SUAVE MAN, WHO SEEMS TO APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITIES TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS FOUR CHILDREN. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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